

Wednesday, February 2

ON THIS DAY



▲ **1653: The city of New Amsterdam, now New York, was incorporated**

1709: Alexander Selkirk, who inspired Daniel Defoe's novel *Robinson Crusoe*, was rescued after five years on the uninhabited island of Mas a Tierra

1848: The Mexican-American war came to an end with the signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo

1990: South African president F.W. de Klerk lifted a 30-year ban on the African National Congress

2010: The trial began in Paris of Continental Airlines and five individuals over the *Concorde* crash that killed 113 people in July 2000